

From: [Smith, Jason](#)
To: [Gaito, Danielle](#)
Subject: RE: Water flow from Merrymeeting Lake
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 2:15:35 PM

Danielle,

Water flow to the hatchery is controlled by valves.

The flowage rights were acquired from Public Service of NH (Eversource) in 1958. We acquired the flowage rights and the property from them when they moved on from generating hydroelectric power.

F&G also owns the dam at Merrymeeting Lake. I am not aware of any flow restrictions for the hatchery. The lake level management is detailed in the Dam Operation and Maintenance manual but is independent of anything involving the hatchery that I am aware of. F&G paid to have the dam rebuilt in the early '80's so we could maintain the lake level a foot higher in hopes of getting cooler water and reducing pathogen load and use of formalin.

I hope this is helpful but I have no idea what the commenter might be referring to in regards to water withdrawal restrictions. I can perhaps have one of our land agents research it but I suspect it may be local folklore and may want to request the person submitting the comment provide you where his information is coming from? I suspect he lives on North Shore Road and would prefer the lake level be higher. If they lived on South Shore Road, they would want the lake level lower....

Jason

Jason M. Smith

Chief, Inland Fisheries Division
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

From: Gaito, Danielle <Gaito.Danielle@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 1:50 PM
To: Smith, Jason <Jason.Smith@wildlife.nh.gov>
Subject: Water flow from Merrymeeting Lake

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Hi Jason –

I had a question about water withdrawals from the Merrymeeting Lake – can you explain how flow to the hatchery is regulated? I understand it is gravity fed – I also recall you talking about maintaining lake levels on a site visit. In addition, one of the commenters mentioned water rights that NHF&G has to the lake and that there may be a limit to the amount of daily withdrawal based

on these water rights. Do you know what this might refer to? Is there any “cap” on the amount of water that could be withdrawn on any given day or a reason why the daily withdrawal could not be limited?

Any help is greatly appreciated.

Thanks!

Danielle